faithfully implemented as these "best endeavour' clauses cannot be enforced through the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of W.T.O.

Decline in Import

1055. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imports dropped from US $ 4,778.8 million in 1997-98 to US $ 28,125.5 million in 1998-99; and

(b) if so, what has been the impact of this on our economic development and GDP?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. As per the provisional data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta for 1998-99, imports were valued at US $ 41886.63 million in 1998-99 against US $ 38807.40 million during 1997-98.

(b) Does not arise.

Export Growth

1056. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how do Government plan to increase the export growth by double digit percentage and by when; and

(b) if not, what is the percentage of growth, Government are planning for the next five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government is striving to achieve a high export growth through various promotional measures being taken continuously as enumerated in the Exim Policy, multilateral and bilateral initiatives, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and various other measures taken from time to time in consultation with industry and business houses.

(b) Department of Commerce formulates export targets on an annual basis. For the year 1999-2000, an export growth of 11.3% has been targeted.